

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the non-final Office Action mailed on February 23, 2005. Claims 1-7, 9-12, 14-17 and 44-53 are pending, claims 11, 14-17, 44 and 45-48 have been cancelled, claims 1, 12, 52 and 53 have been amended, and claims 54-56 are new.

Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claim 45. In view of the foregoing amendments, as well as the following remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in complete condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application in this regard.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 46-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. As these claims have been cancelled, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 14, 44, and 49-52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,605,637 (Shan et al.). Claims 1, 2, 5, 14, and 53 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as unpatentable over JP 6-020293 (Kanai). Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,413,673 (Fujimoto). Claims 1, 2 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,267,074 (Okumura). Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Shan et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,352,593 (Brors et al.). Claims 4, 7, 9-11, and 15-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Shan et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,050,446 (Lei et al.). Claims 15-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as

unpatentable over Fujimoto in view of Lei et al. Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Shan et al. and Lei et al. further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,050,216 (Szapucki et al.). Claims 46-48 and 53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Shan et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,129,808 (Wicker et al.). Of the rejected claims, claim 1 is the only independent claim pending after this Amendment and claims 11, 14-17, 44 and 45 have been cancelled. Applicant has elected to amend independent claim 1 by introducing the subject matter of dependent claim 45 and intervening dependent claim 44, of which the Examiner considered the former to be allowable. Applicant has also modified claim 1 to more closely reflect the claim language for claim 1 in the "Supplemental Amendment Under 37 CFR § 1.111" submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office bearing a certificate of facsimile transmission dated June 28, 2004. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

New Claims

Claims 54-56 are submitted as new claims. As these claims depend directly from claim 1, which is allowable, Applicant submits that these claims are also allowable. Furthermore, claims 54-56 recite unique combinations of elements not taught, disclosed or suggested by the references of record.

CONCLUSION


Applicant has made a *bona fide* effort to respond to each and every requirement set forth in the Office Action. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is submitted to be in complete condition for allowance and, accordingly, a timely

notice of allowance to this effect is earnestly solicited. If there is any additional matter that may be resolved by telephone or fax, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to expedite issuance of this application.

Applicant does not believe that any fees are due in connection with this response. However, if such petition is due or any other fees are necessary, the Commissioner may consider this to be a request for such and charge any necessary fees to deposit account 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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